

## United States Department of the Interior FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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To: Randy Hill, Refuge Manager, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Washington

From: Anan Raymond, Regional Archaeologist

Date: December 11, 2013

Subject: Section 106 Compliance: Carty and River S Units public access project

Thank you for submitting the request for cultural resource compliance (RCRC) for the subject undertaking. We have reviewed the undertaking pursuant to the terms of our Programmatic Agreement for Section 106 compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act among the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington State Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (PA).

The FWS will provide funds to improve public access to the Carty and the River S Units on Ridgefield NWR, Clark County, Washington. The undertaking includes replacement of the road and bridge that access the River S Unit and construction of a pedestrian trail from Ridgefield town to the Carty Unit. The total area of potential effect (APE) of the direct disturbance footprint of the project is about 9 acres.

The FWS contracted with professional archaeologist Dr. Cameron Smith to conduct an historic properties identification effort. This included a search of the Washington State Historic Preservation Office's WISAARD database, and review and consideration of cultural resource records and Tribal concerns for the area. Dr. Smith conducted an historic properties investigation of the APE and immediately surrounding area in December 2013. No cultural resources were identified in the APE.

The FWS has applied the Programmatic Agreement and the 36CFR800 regulations that implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and has determined that the Carty and River S Units project is a "no historic properties affected" outcome 36CFR800.4(d)(1). The project can proceed without further consideration of historic properties. We will forward this determination to the Washington State Historic Preservation Office according to procedures of our Programmatic Agreement and include it our annual report to them in 2014.

If cultural resources are discovered during implementation of the project, or if the project changes from the description supplied in the RCRC, and described above, please notify me as soon as possible.

Thank you for considering cultural resources.

Anan Raymond

Regional Archaeologist